Appl. No.:   09/751,187
Amdt. dated June 30, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 7, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system ~~allowing for modification of the original boot block~~, comprising:

a microprocessor;

startup memory coupled to the microprocessor, wherein the startup memory is available on power up of the system; and

an original boot block stored in the startup memory, wherein the original boot block checks for a secondary boot block; and

wherein the original and second boot blocks are each adapted to perform at least a portion of an initialization of the computer system and then to pass control to an operating system; and

wherein the secondary boot block is a replacement boot block for the original boot block.

2.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block checks for a secondary boot block stored in the startup memory.

3.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block checks for a secondary boot block at a specific memory address.

4.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block checks for a secondary boot block by comparing data at specific memory addresses to verification data.

5.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block checks for a secondary boot block by performing a checksum of specific memory addresses.

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6.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block checks the integrity of a secondary boot block by performing a checksum of specific memory addresses.

7.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block only performs mandatory initialization functions before checking for a secondary boot block.

8.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the original boot block is protected from modification.

9.   (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein when a secondary boot block is found in a portion of the startup memory that portion of memory is protected from modification.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~of allowing for modification of the original boot block in a computer system~~, comprising:

powering up a computer system having startup memory;

accessing an original boot block in startup memory to <u>begin to</u> initialize the system; ~~and~~

checking for a secondary boot block;<u> and</u>

~~wherein the original and second boot blocks are each adapted to perform at least a portion of an initialization of the computer system and then to pass control to an operating system~~<u>if a secondary boot block is present, completing initializing the computer system using the secondary boot block instead of the original boot block;</u>

<u>wherein the secondary boot block is a replacement for the original boot block</u>.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 comprising checking for a secondary boot block stored in the startup memory.

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12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 comprising checking for a secondary boot block at a specific memory address.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein checking for a secondary boot block comprises comparing data at specific memory addresses to verification data.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein checking for a secondary boot block comprises performing a checksum of specific memory addresses.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising checking the integrity of a secondary boot block by performing a checksum of specific memory addresses.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the original boot block performs the checking for a secondary boot block.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein only mandatory initialization functions are performed by the boot block before checking for a secondary boot block.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the original boot block is protected from modification.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising protecting a portion of startup memory from inadvertent modification during system operation when a secondary boot block is found in that portion of the memory.

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer system~~allowing for modification of the original boot block~~, comprising:
        a microprocessor;

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a read only memory ("ROM") coupled to the microprocessor; and

a first boot block stored in the ROM and, if a second boot block is also stored in the ROM, control passes from the first boot block to the second boot block for completion of system initialization, said second boot block comprising replacement code for the first boot block.

21.   (Previously presented) The computer system as in claim 20 wherein the ROM stores the second boot block and a third boot block and the microprocessor determines that the second boot block is stored in the ROM and control passes to the second boot block and the microprocessor then determines that the third boot block is stored in the ROM and control passes to the third boot block.

22.   (Previously presented) The computer system as in claim 20 wherein control passes to an operating system upon completion of execution of either of the first or second boot blocks.

23.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the ROM comprises a type of memory selected from the group consisting of programmable ROM, electrically erasable programmable ROM, and flash ROM.

24.   (New) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the first boot block cannot be overwritten and thereby remains usable, and the second boot block can be overwritten.